

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 H-01 NSCE-00
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 172871

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PEPR, SO, US

SUBJECT: CODEL AND US WARSHIPS TO SOMALIA

REF: ADDIS ABABA 2997

1. IF ALLEGATION THAT CODEL WAS IN MOGADISCIO TO DISCUSS
US NAVAL USE OF SOMALI PORTS ARISES IN COURSE CONTACTS
WITH ETHIOPIAN OFFICIALS, YOU MAY DRAW ON FOLLOWING:

--WE NOT AWARE WHETHER OR NOT RECENT CODEL DISCUSSED US
NAVAL USE OF SOMALI PORTS. IF THEY DID DISCUSS SUBJECT,
THEY DID SO ON THEIR OWN INITIATIVE SINCE, AS PMGSE
OFFICIALS KNOW FULL WELL FROM PAST EXPERIENCE, USG NOT
IN HABIT OF REQUESTING CLEARANCE FOR USN SHIP VISITS
THROUGH THE MEDIUM OF VISITING CONGRESSMAN. WHEN WE WISH
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TO HAVE A USN SHIP VISIT A SOMALI PORT, WE SHALL SEEK
CLEARANCE THROUGH NORMAL DIPLOMATIC PROCEDURES.

--IT WOULD, IN FACT, BE QUITE UNDERSTANDABLE IF CODEL DID
DISCUSS NAVAL VISITS TO SOMALI PORTS. CODEL WAS UN-
DOUBTEDLY AWARE THAT NUMBER OF PORTS IN THE REGION TO
WHICH USN ACCESS IS QUITE LIMITED, GIVEN PARTICULARLY

UNWILLINGNESS OF PMGSE TO GRANT PERMISSION FOR VISITS TO ETHIOPIAN PORTS. CODEL WAS ALSO AWARE THAT SHIP VISITS ARE ONE OF THE ASPECTS OF NORMAL/BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP SUCH AS WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPING WITH SOMALIA.

--INDEED, THE ONLY SURPRISING THING ABOUT THE REPORT IS THAT SO MUCH WAS MADE OF IT BY THOSE WHO SEEM PREPARED TO SEIZE ON ANYTHING THAT MIGHT BECLOUD THE ATMOSPHERE OF US-ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS. WE REGRET THE PMGSE SEEMS WILLING TO HAVE ITS OFFICIALLY-CONTROLLED MEDIA USED FOR SUCH PURPOSES.

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